

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

HARDY, LAURENCE M. 1980. *Ficimia variegata*.

***Ficimia variegata* (Günther)
Tehuantepec hook-nosed snake**

Amblymetopon variegatum Günther, 1858:7-8. Type-locality, "Mexico," restricted to "Guichicovi, Oaxaca" by Smith and Taylor (1950). Syntypes, British Museum (Natural History) 1946.1.5-49 and 1946.1.6-78, two females, collected by M. Sallé (Boulenger, 1894); data with 1946.1.5-49 list the collector as Cuming; date of collection unknown (examined by author).

Ficimia olivacea: Steindachner, 1870:344.

Ficimia variegata: Garman, 1883:84.

- CONTENT. The species is monotypic.

- DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. *Ficimia variegata* has the following characteristics: smooth dorsal scales in 18-18-17-17-17 to 20-20-18-17-18 rows with single apical pits and no anal ridges; 4-7 dorsal scales contacting parietals; internasals absent; nasal entire above, divided below naris; loreal absent; one preocular; one or two postoculars; 1 + 2 temporals; rostral contacting frontal, turned up in front and sharp edged; 7 supralabials, 3-4 contacting orbit; labials 2-3 contacting preocular; 7 (sometimes 8) infralabials, 1-3 contacting anterior chin shields; mental separated from anterior chin shields by mutual median contact of first infralabials; nasal separated from preocular and fused to first supralabial; 20-31 gulars; 157 (females), 151 (males) ventrals; 34-36 (females), 36-43 (males) subcaudals; anal plate divided; dorsocaudal scale rows reduce to 6 at subcaudals 6-16 (females), 6-17 (males), reduced to 4 at subcaudals 16-24 (females), 11-27 (males); 11-27 dorsal body blotches; 11-14 dorsal caudal blotches; 14 maxillary teeth (diastema and fangs absent); 6 palatine teeth; 7-8 dentary teeth; total length is 177-385 (females), 331-439 (males); tail length is 24-55 (females), 59-66 (males); tail length/total length is 0.135-0.140 (females), 0.150-0.178 (males).

- DESCRIPTIONS. The next description of any individual after the original was Garman (1883 [1884]) who gave notes on scutellation and coloration of one specimen from "Mexico." Some mention of coloration is in Boulenger (1894). A more detailed description of a specimen from Veracruz is in Taylor (1936), and a general description of the species is in a review by Smith and Taylor (1941). Fouquette and Rossman (1963) described the maxillary teeth, scales, and color pattern for a Veracruz specimen, the sixth specimen reported. Hardy (1975) gave detailed descriptions, including the dentition and hemipenis, of the two syntypes and four other known specimens.

- ILLUSTRATIONS. Photographs of the whole body (dorsal and ventral) and of the head (dorsal and ventral, enlarged) of both syntypes are in Hardy (1975). The drawings in Steindachner (1870:pl. VI) are of *F. variegata*.

- DISTRIBUTION. *Ficimia variegata* is known only from the Gulf of Mexico drainage system of Veracruz and Oaxaca in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Statements by Smith and Taylor (1945), Beltran (1953), and Alvarez del Toro (1960) that this species is known from Chiapas have not been verified. Their references were probably based on Taylor's (1936) interpretation of Steindachner's (1870) "Tuxtla" as Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, an interpretation challenged by Fouquette and Rossman (1963) and Hardy (1975). Alvarez del Toro (1973) listed three localities for *F. variegata* in Chiapas: Cintalapa, Villa Allende, and Tuxtla Gutierrez (all in the "Parte occidental de la zona central"). I have been unable to locate Villa Allende. However, Alvarez del Toro informed me (personal communication, 1980) that he has no specimens of *F. variegata* from those localities or any other locality in Chiapas. The localities based on known specimens (map) are 360 m or lower in elevation whereas the Chiapas localities listed by Alvarez del Toro (elevation of Villa Allende unknown to me) are higher (Cintalapa, 525 m; T. Gutierrez, 550 m).

Velasco listed *Ficimia variegata* from Campeche (1895) and also from Colima (1896), but does not cite specimens and none other has been reported from those states.

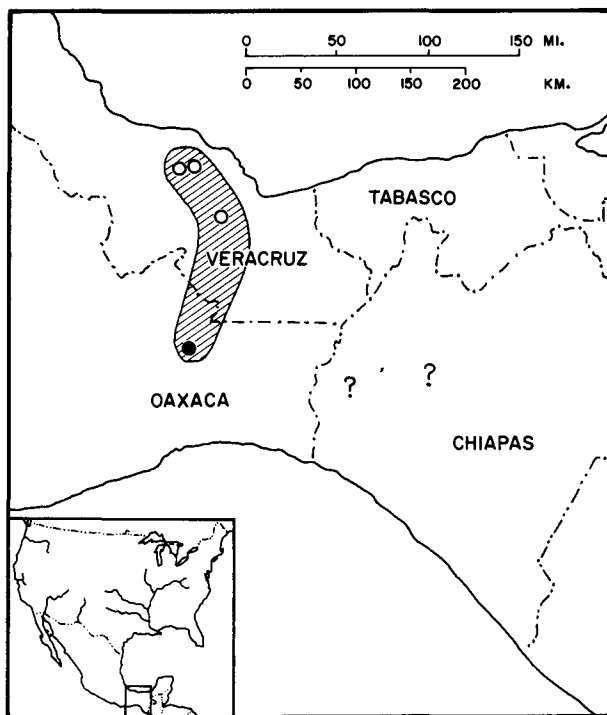
- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. The most recent taxonomic revision is Hardy (1975). Apparently the third specimen of *Ficimia variegata* reported was from Oaxaca (Sumichrast, 1882). The next definite record was from Veracruz (Taylor, 1936), although it was not mentioned by Smith and Taylor (1945). Cope (1866) suggested that *F. variegata* was more closely related to *F. olivacea* than it was to *F. publia*. Peters (1869) considered *F. variegata* a synonym of *F. olivacea*; Cope (1887) and Günther (1893) agreed. Fouquette and Rossman (1963) gave characteristics of the scutellation, dentition, and pattern.

- ETYMOLOGY. The specific epithet (*variegata*) is Latin (*variegata*, of various colors, various, manifold) and apparently refers to the dorsal pattern.

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MAP. Solid circle indicates the restricted type-locality, open circles mark other records, and question marks represent unverified literature records.

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